MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY 24, 1922.

The fourth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1922 was held in its office at 1729 New York Avenue, northwest, Washington, D. C., on Friday, February 24, 1922.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman;
Mr. Greenleaf;
Mr. Fraser;
Mr. Bacon;
Mr. Ayres;
Mr. Mowbray;

also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Assistant to the Secretary, who served as secretary of the meeting in the absence of Lieut. Colonel C. O. Sherrill, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 1922, were approved.

2. GRANT MEMORIAL GOLD DOLLAR: Mr. Fraser submitted a model for the obverse of the Grant Memorial Gold Dollar made by Mrs. James E. Fraser, showing the head of General Grant and the lettering usually required on a memorial coin. The members were much pleased with the design and the model was approved.

3. SIGMA CHI FOUNDERS MEMORIAL: Mr. J. G. Harlan, Executive Secretary, of the Runkle Memorial Commission, Sigma Chi Fraternity, submitted a design for the Sigma Chi Founders Memorial to be erected in Arlington National Cemetery as one of similar monuments to be erected in various parts of the United States to commemorate the seven founders of that Fraternity. The design represented the monument an oblong block of stone, within the regulations pertaining to monuments for Arlington. The Commission approved the

design and recommended that it be executed in Tennessee Marble. (Exhibit A).

4. LAMAR BATHHOUSE, HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS: Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Assistant Director of the National Park Service, appeared before the Commission with tracings showing front and side elevation of a design for the Lamar Bathhouse, at Hot Springs, Arkansas. The Commission inspected the designs and recommended changes, as follows:

On sheet 4, the elimination of the jig-saw appearance of the roofline; and the porch line should be carried straight from the cornice piers to the center.

The cornice over the porch is three times thicker than it need be, and should be reduced in order to bring it into harmony with the massive main cornice of the building.

On sheet 5, simplification of porch and roof line to correspond with similar suggestions on sheet 4.

Desirable changes in the side elevation were indicated on the "Left side elevation", shown by sheet 5, where a four-inch set-off was suggested to break at a point immediately behind three lines of windows above the cooling rooms; also, to emphasize that part of the structure and render it dignity, the two central piers should be narrowed and the two end piers should be widened. The tops of the windows should be straight across instead of the broken arrangement shown on the design.

The various brick courses shown on the front elevation on sheet 4 should also be eliminated.

5. FILTRATION PLANT: Major M. C. Tyler, office of the Chief of Engineers, submitted designs for a filtration plant to be built near the District Line along the Potomac on the Maryland side as part of the plan to increase the water supply of Washington from Great Falls. Major Tyler stated that through

recent action of Congress in support of this project they have begun to make surveys and that it is intended to lay out a new conduit from Great Falls alongside the present one.

Major Tyler said it is their desire to carry out the recommendations of the Commission of Fine Arts to the effect that the road to Great Falls be widened to develop into a boulevard, but that they are without authority to buy land other than what is needed for laying the conduit and they cannot interfere with the property of private owners along the road; the matter is to receive particular attention after the new conduit has been laid.

The designs submitted consisted of plans for the filtration plant proper, and other necessary buildings, including a dwelling for the keeper. The Commission suggested a number of changes in the architectural treatment of the designs which will be incorporated by the architects, to be re-submitted for final approval.

6. ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL: Under date of December 24, 1921, the Commission received the following letter from C. Grant LaFarge, architect, of New York City, concerning the Roosevelt Memorial:

> "The Roosevelt Memorial Association asked me awhile ago to take the Chairmanship of a Committee to advise the Association upon the general question of the Memorial. I felt it my duty to do this, and therefore accepted. The Committee consists of Mr. F. L. Olmsted, Mr. Lorado Taft, and myself. We have held a preliminary meeting, and laid down the lines upon which we shall proceed, with a view to give to this matter the most careful consideration, and the most open-minded, of which we are capable. It would greatly help us and would we think, be the proper course to have the benefit of a somewhat informal talk about the matter with your Commission before we allow ourselves to formulate anything definite. If this is agreeable to you, will you kindly let me know when your next meeting will be held, and whether we may present ourselves at that time?"

Arrangements were made for the Committee to meet with the members of the Commission and accordingly Mr. LaFarge and Mr. Olmsted were present at the

meeting today, during which the Roosevelt Memorial was made the subject of a thorough discussion, with results as follows:

1. The Committee do not desire as yet to come to any definite conclusion with reference to the Roosevelt Memorial.

2. Any designs or sketches which may have been made thus far should be considered as preliminary to what may ultimately be submitted.

3. The Akeley-Brite design, representing the lion, should be considered as one of the designs, either in its present form or in a modified form. The Committee believes that careful consideration should be given to the question as to whether the lion would properly represent the most important characteristics of Theodore Roosevelt as one of the great Presidents.

4. The Committee must accept the fact that the Roosevelt Memorial Association is committed to the proposition of a monument to Theodore Roosevelt in Washington.

5. The Roosevelt Memorial should be properly related to the plan of Washington.

6. Arrangements should be made for a program of competition inviting designs for the Roosevelt Memorial.

7. A number of sites should be selected for the information of the competitors in the preparation of their design; among the most important of these are the Sixteenth Street site, a site in Potomac Park, and a site south of the Washington Monument on the axis of the White House. Some indication of inappropriate sites is also desirable.

8. The Committee although not definitely so informed felt that the Roosevelt Memorial Association would be agreeable to the erection of a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt at a cost of from three to five million dollars if among the designs submitted one should be accepted involving such expenditure.

7. ARTS AND SCIENCES BUILDING, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY: Mr. A. L. Harris, the Municipal Architect, submitted a suggested design for the Arts and Sciences Building of George Washington University. According to the design it is proposed to have the building occupy the entire square bounded by Twentieth, Twenty-first, and G and H Streets, northwest. It will be three or four stories high with class rooms facing the streets. Also there is to be an auditorium and an open court in the interior. The Commission endorsed the plan and recommended re-study of parts of the design for re-submission.

8. FIRST DIVISION MEMORIAL: A communication was received from Mr. Cass Gilbert stating that he was sending a preliminary design for the First Division Memorial (Exhibit B). However, the design had not arrived and the matter was therefore postponed until the next meeting of the Commission.

9. MARKERS, EUROPEAN BATTLEFIELDS: The Battle Monuments Board of the War Department submitted a model of the Relief Map proposed for the American Battlefields of Europe. Major Price explained the model in detail stating that the model had been made according to a design previously submitted.

The Commission were much pleased with the model and made suggestions with reference to the bronze and the stone, which were embodied in a communication addressed to the Battle Monuments Board. (Exhibit C).

10. DECORATION FOR AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERIES: Under date of February 17, 1922, the Commission received the following letter from Hon. John W. Weeks, Secretary of War, in regard to a proposed decoration for the American Military Cemeteries in Europe:

> "Enclosed herewith find letter of Mr. George Conlon, sculptor, Paris, France, and photographs of project for decoration of American military cemeteries. These are submitted for your consideration in connection with the general plan of ornamentation for American military cemeteries abroad.
>
> Mr. Conlon has been advised of this reference."

The Commission, after careful consideration, thought the design was not capable of being realized under such planting conditions as prevail; also that the sculpture has not been carried far enough to forecast the final result. The Secretary of War was informed accordingly. (Exhibit D).

11. THE MALL, RESUBMISSION OF HENRY AND SEATON PARKS: The following plans and profiles were transmitted to the Commission by Colonel Sherrill with a request for the advice of the Commission as to the proposed changes shown therein:

(1) Henry and Seaton Parks, Grading Plan (File 338.31)
(a) Profiles: File 338.32; 338.33; 338.34; and 338.35

Considering Henry and Seaton Parks (File 338.31) and (File 338.34) as to the proposed changes of contours and grades shown thereon in pencil between Seventh Street and the axis of future building line (midway between Third and Four and one-half Streets) it was felt by the Commission that the so-called "pillowing" of the grass and sidewalk areas was largely overcome in the area lying between Sixth and Seventh Streets, and no changes were suggested.

In considering the proposed change between Four and one-half and Sixth Streets, it was suggested by the Commission that the proposed grades of grass and sidewalk areas be reduced so as to eliminate the "pillowing", detailed reference being made to profile 338.32. This, Mr. Greenleaf explained, could be perhaps most effectively accomplished by keeping the original grade figures (ink) of the north and south walks (as was done between Sixth and Seventh Streets), and reducing the grades (ink) of the grass areas bordering the walks.

Considering further the area east of Four and one-half Street and the axis of future buildings (midway between Third and Four and one-half Streets)

Mr. Greenleaf felt that owing to the ground here being already graded, it would be most practicable to raise grades (ink) of the north and south walks to the grades (pencil) proposed for about three-fourths of the length of each walk and then to make a suitable transition of grade to the grades (ink) shown for the proposed sidewalk along the east side of Four and one-half Street.

The existing grades shown on the profiles (Files 338.34 and 338.35) of Four and one-half, Sixth, and Seventh Streets were considered as fixing the ultimate grades of the Mall roads and therefore affecting, in a large measure, the disposition of grades of lawn and walk area.

Acceptance of the plan and profiles with changes suggested within the area above considered was advised by the Commission.

12. THE MALL, CROSS SECTION - PROPOSED 50' STREET FOR NINTH STREET EXTENSION: A typical cross section of the proposed extension of Ninth Street, 50' width (curb to curb) was presented showing a 6" crown and 6" curb reveal at the same relative elevation. After consideration it was felt by the Commission that owing to the proposed future use of a 5" curb along Seventh Street (in case of repaving, shown by File 338.32), it would be advisable to suggest the use of a 5" curb reveal for Ninth Street, inasmuch as the widths of these respective streets were each of similar dimensions, both as regards the proposed drive, sidewalks and building lines. Its acceptance with the changes suggested was advised.

13. AMERICAN CEMETERY AT WAEREGHEM, BELGIUM: Major Gibbs, Landscape Architect, of the Graves Registration Service, War Department, submitted a design for a permanent American Cemetery at Waereghem, Belgium. This cemetery will comprise about five acres and will provide for 450 burials. The Commission approved the design.

14. MERIDIAN HILL PARK; PLANTING PLAN: The changes suggested in the planting plan in the vicinity of the terminal motifs on the north side of Meridian Hill Park were given attention by the Commission of Fine Arts during an inspection trip to the park.

The Commission recommend the omission of the hedge in front of the terminal motifs and instead to plant on each side of the motif specimen bushes (box, English yew, or two bushes of Euonymous Alatus)7 to 8 feet high and about 8 feet across, so planted as to show part of the wall. This is to be done in front of each of the two terminal motifs on the north side of the park. The changes suggested, showing particularly where the hedge is to be omitted, have been noted on the blueprint. A hemlock is to be planted near the northeast corner of the park. In the northwest corner there should be more dense planting to hide the "fall off". Light vines should be planted at some of the iron posts of the fence along the north side of the park.

As to the planting around the stairway of the Sixteenth Street entrance, the Commission believe an improvement may be made by planting individually, or in groups, either Vaccinium Corymbosum or Spiraea Van Houttei. On the south side of this entrance the bushy Euonymous should be planted.

The Commission had as their guests at luncheon Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, President of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and former member of the Commission, and Major George Gibbs, landscape architect. In the afternoon the Commission made a trip of inspection to Meridian Hill Park and thereupon returned to resume the session, adjourning at 6:30 p.m.

C O P Y

March 1, 1922.

Dear Sir:

I have to report that the design submitted for the Sigma Chi Founders Memorial was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in Washington February 24, 1922. The Commission were well pleased with the design and suggest that the monument be executed in Tennessee marble.

Respectfully, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill,

Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

Mr. J. G. Harlan,

647½ G Street, N.E.,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A.

C O P Y

CASS GILBERT, ARCHITECT,
244 Madison Avenue, New York

1stDIV. MEM. February 23rd, 1922.

Mr. Charles Moore,
Chairman, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

Gen. Frank Parker requested me to place before the Commission of Fine Arts, the preliminary design for the First Division Memorial to be located in Washington on the south axis of the War, State and Navy Building, and the east and west axis of D Street.

I am unable to personally be present at the meeting which I understand is to be held tomorrow but I herewith transmit a preliminary design of the monument and request that you place it before the Commission of Fine Arts for their preliminary inspection and intimation as to whether they would approve it or suggest material changes.

It is desired by the 1st Division Committee to place upon the monument the names of the Battles in which the Division was engaged, and the citation given by Gen. Pershing, and also the names of about 5,500 dead.

I find no difficulty in placing the names of the Battles and inscribing the citation but very considerable difficulty in finding space for the names of 5,500 men. It is desired that they should be placed close enough to the ground to be read. Obviously the letters will have to be very small, not over 3/4" in height. There is space upon the plinth courses for the names as indicated. The expense of cutting however, in either granite or marble, is so great that it may be necessary to place them upon bronze plates. I would ask the Commission's opinion as to whether the use of bronze plates in such a location would be satisfactory. It is Gen. Summerall's preference that the Monument should be of White Granite. I find that at present it is impracticable to obtain this material. I am therefore proposing that the column shaft should be of Pink Milford Granite rubbed to a honed finish, and that the remainder should be either of White Marble of a rubbed finish or of Pink Milford Granite cut to a ten-cut finish.

It would be my personal preference not to use bronze lettering or bronze ornamentation but that it all should be cut upon the stone.

It is intended that the figure crowning the monument should be modeled by Mr. Daniel Chester French and may vary from the design shown on the sketch. The design of the figure indicated on the sketch is that of the Victory in the Museum of Naples.

The height of the column shaft is 35 feet, its diameter at the base is 5 feet. It is to be a monolith. The total height from the ground to the top of the head of the Victory would be about 78 feet. The sketch is drawn at the scale of 1/4".

May I request the preliminary opinion of the Commission on the foregoing, both as to the location and character of the Monument and any advice relative thereto that it may see fit to send.

I remain

Respectfully,

/s/ Cass Gilbert
Architect.

EXHIBIT B.

C O P Y

February 27, 1922.

Gentlemen:

The Commission of Fine Arts were much pleased with the model of the relief map proposed for the American Battlefields of Europe, as submitted February 24, 1922. The Commission suggest that the bronze frame of the relief map be made large enough to include the inscription, as shown in the attached sketch. The Commission are of the opinion that it will prove more satisfactory to indicate the battle lines in bronze, chased rather than by enamel.

The Commission suggest further that the relief map be placed on a plain block of stone with flat top and no plinth; also that the block be reduced in size so as to extend not more than four and one-half ($4\frac{1}{2}$) inches beyond each side of the bronze; and that the pedestal be one inch larger at the bottom than at the top. The Commission suggest a resubmission of the model embodying these recommendations.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill,
Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Battle Monuments Board,

War Department.

EXHIBIT C.

C O P Y

March 1, 1922.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your letter of February 17, 1922, transmitting sketches of a proposed decoration for the American Military Cemeteries by Mr. George Conlon, sculptor, of Paris, was brought before the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting February 24, 1922.

The Commission thought the picture interesting, but the design is not capable of being realized under such planting conditions as prevail. The sculpture has not been carried far enough to forecast the final result. The American Cemeteries in France will require a great deal of planting and careful care before they come to a state in which such an elaborate design could possibly find place.

The Commission of Fine Arts are, of course, without authority to commission anyone to execute any project. The sketches are returned to you herewith.

Sincerely, yours,

/s/ C. O. Sherrill,

Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. John W. Weeks,

Secretary of War.

EXHIBIT D.